United Nations A/55/929–S/2001/444

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2001
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 7 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 18 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to you (A/55/908-S/2001/385), I should like to inform you that my Government rejects the fallacies and fabrications contained therein in their entirety and that it would like to state the facts set forth hereunder.

1. The Secretariat confirmed Israel's withdrawal to the Blue Line but did not confirm its withdrawal to the internationally recognized boundary, that is to say withdrawal "from all Lebanese territory" as demanded by the Security Council in its resolution 425 (1978).

2. Lebanon recorded its reservations with respect to the Blue Line in an official manner, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General of 16 June 2000 (S/2000/590). Israel is violating the Blue Line and Lebanon's sovereignty — on land, at sea and in the air — on a daily basis, and it is continuing to hold Lebanese detainees in its prisons without trial in defiance of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the additional protocols. The mines that Israel left behind it are also bringing death and injury to Lebanese citizens every day and are hampering movement, and Israel is still refusing to hand over most of the minefield maps it has in its possession.

3. Resistance is a right recognized by the United Nations and by its covenants and resolutions, and Israel itself acknowledges that the Shab'a farmlands are territory that it is occupying by force.

4. The Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon are there at the request and with the agreement of the Lebanese Government, and their presence is a necessary, legitimate and temporary one that is not Israel's concern.

5. If Israel actually wants the restoration of peace and security to the region, then it has only to withdraw from the Shab'a farmlands, to release the detainees, to withdraw fully from the occupied Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights, including the right to establish

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an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital and the right of the refugees to return to their land and their homes.

Lebanon urges Israel to discharge in full its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions and in accordance with the principles of international law and to desist completely from the repeated violations of Lebanon's sovereignty that it commits on land, at sea and in the air. Lebanon alerts the international community to the gravity of these violations, and it calls upon the United Nations to act resolutely to end Israel's occupation of the occupied Arab territories in implementation of the resolutions that constitute international legality.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Selim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative